

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1897.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication will to have rejected articles returned, they must at all costs send postage for their purpose.

The Eastern Situation.

The main source of the situation in Turkey is the uncertainty still surrounding the position about Larissa. The investments spoken of in the Turkish papers cannot take place until the bulk of the Turkish army has crossed the Samsun River, Larissa being situated on the south bank of that stream. Before Evren Pasha has cleared the whole of the plain between the frontier and the Samsun River, no investment or assault on Larissa is possible. The most that could be done would be to bombard it from the plain on the north side. There is reason to believe that the Greeks are not wholly unprepared for this, as early in the year it was reported that some heavy naval guns had been sent up from the Piraeus to Volo for transport to Larissa. In any case the next authentic news from there will be of great interest. The Greeks still seem to have a large force on the frontier, and their possession of the roads leading into Turkish territory from Xerxes and the Ermeni defile in a menace to the Turkish advance. The bombardment of Platamonas appears to be with a view to seize the road running along the coast and from there opening communications with the Greek forces at Epirus and Macedonia, and perhaps throwing in reinforcements from the coast. A bombardment of Salonica would not probably be attempted, as it would be sure to bring on Austrian intervention. There are large European interests in Salonica, mostly in the hands of Austrian and British subjects. Karabina, which is said, will be bombarded, is the port of Elbasana, and, if it falls into the hands of the Greeks, will be a thorn in Epirus Pasha's communications.

The capture, reported, of Chios and Mitylene has some importance. Mitylene is separated from the mainland by but a narrow channel, well protected from high winds, and could be made the base of operations, such as landing arms and sending in bands to raise a population more or less inclined to brigandage. Trouble might thus be given to the Turkish garrisons of the Dardanelles forts.

The destruction of an important railway bridge between Gümserdina and Dedeagatch on the Salonic-Constantinople railway will oblige the Turks to detail large detachments to guard the line and the trains. Quantities of dynamite, with the use of which the Greek sharpshooters on the coast are quite familiar, appear to have found their way into the country.

The demand of the Porte on Bulgaria for the expulsion of the Greek Consuls from Bulgarian territory, if refused, may bring on complications. The Turkish army on the Bulgarian eastern frontier is estimated at 90,000 men, armed with Mauser magazine rifles, which, however, are reported to be greatly deteriorated through neglect and rust from the dampness of the buildings in which they have been stored for several years. The Bulgarians have the Mannlicher rifle.

The assumption of the protection of the Catholic Greeks in Turkey by France and of the orthodox Greeks by England introduces a novel feature in a strange situation. So does the compliance of the Egyptian authorities with the Turkish demand for the dismissal of the Greek Consul-General at Alexandria.

The Greek operations in Epirus are evidently with the view of isolating the Turkish forces in front of Arta and at Preveza, and, according to the reports, appear to be going on successfully. The occupation of Epirus would at once reinforce the Greeks by fifteen or twenty thousand splendid irregular fighters. The plain of Neochori and the town of Philippolis being in the possession of the Greeks will greatly facilitate the object aimed at by the advance into Epirus and up the road on the west of the Kilburni mountains to Janina. Still the main interest of the situation centres at Larissa, from where the Crown Prince Constantine telegraphs to Athens that his army maintains its positions, but that heavy fighting is going on, in which he and his brother Nicholas participate. The latest telegrams that EDEH Pasha has called for 40,000 reinforcements are ominous of disaster to the Turks.

Fighting Forever.

The world isn't through with fighting yet, and we don't see any sign of the end of mankind's wars. There have already been bloody years in the last decade of the century, and all the chief powers of Europe are armed to the teeth, awaiting further hostilities. Upon all the continents of the earth armies have fought since 1890.

Since then we have had the war between Italy and Abyssinia, which brought disaster to the expeditionary army under Gen. BARATIERI, and ended in a remarkable triumph for KING MENELK.

We have had the great war between China and Japan, in which powerful armies and navies fought sanguinary battles upon land and sea, the consequences of which were the humiliation of China, the loss of a part of her territory, and the payment of an indemnity to her conqueror.

We have had the civil war in Brazil, which ensued upon the overthrow of the empire, and through which the new Government was shaken for two years, but which ended in the success of the constitutional republic.

We have had the war of France upon Madagascar, the results of which were the capture of the city of Antananarivo by the French, the dethronement of the Queen, and the conquest of the country.

We have had the sanguinary wars of England in South Africa, through which vast regions have been added to the dominions of Queen VICTORIA, at the expense of the lives of tens of thousands of black Africans.

We have had the shameful wars of Spain against her own colonies; her long war in Cuba, by butchery can be called war, and her year of war in the Philippines. The Spaniards say they have crushed the Philippine insurrection, but Cuba is yet in arms for liberty.

We have had small civil wars in five or six of the Spanish-American republics, the most important one of which was that in Ecuador, which ended in the victory of the revolutionary party. There is a fight now going on in Uruguay, and there is a squabble in Honduras.

We had carnage upon a vast scale in Armenia last year, but that could not be

called war. The Kurds and Turks met little resistance during the period in which they were engaged in slaying the tortured Christians.

Now we have the portentous war between Turkey and Greece, about the results or the consequences of which there may well be apprehension.

We also have the English military expeditions up the Nile, which has not yet been the occasion of much fighting, but which may be the occasion of a pretty hot war before England goes to Khartoum.

As for the belligerent affairs of an unimportant character, in many countries during this decade, we could not count them. The largest of them was perhaps the Manchurian revolt in northwestern China. France has had trouble in Siam; Japan has had some fighting in Formosa; Zanzibar was the scene of a stupendous Spanish threatened. England captured the negro King of Ashante, and grabbed his country; there was a fight last year between a mob of English sailors and the gallant Boers of the Transvaal.

There has been danger that a number of the wars here spoken of would be the cause of other and yet larger wars. Russia, France, and Germany came very near quarreling with England at the end of the struggle between Japan and China. There was danger of trouble between this country and England when the English invaded the territory of Venezuela. The Turk-Grecian war is a peril to the peace of Europe.

Truly, the years of the last decade of the nineteenth century have been bloody years. Mankind are yet fighting as they fought in the days when AMALEK and JOACHIM went to war, when ALEXANDER fell upon the world, when Crusader and Moslem met in conflict, when NAPOLEON swooped for the earth when Unionist and Confederate engaged in battle.

It is satisfactory in these times to turn to the continent of North America, the three great countries of which, the United States, Mexico, and Canada, have so long lived in a state of peace. No war in this country since the days of Secession, no war in Mexico since DUARTE became President; nothing more in Canada for a half century than two small rebellions. Lucky North America, harking Cuba!

In view of so many wars, in so many instances, in our times, what is to be said of the prospects for the coming of the age of universal peace? Since the earliest times of which history makes record the human race has ever been belligerent, and, if we may judge by the magnitude of the existing armies of the leading nations of the world, all but one of these nations, this race of ours is even more warlike than ever it was at any time in the past. The events that are occurring at this hour upon the ancient battle grounds of western Europe may lead to international complications, the results of which no man can foresee. Shall the powers clash? Shall Europe become a field of carnage because of the Turk? Shall the hostile forces, leaping over the boundaries of Europe, confront each other in distant lands, far as Asia, far as Africa, far as Australasia, far as the British possessions extend, the world over?

There are alarming possibilities in the situation. We are told that Russia does not want to fight, and that England, France, Germany, Austria, and Italy do not. But there stand the armies, six or eight millions strong, watching each other with jealous eye, and the hour of provocation for them may come with the firing of a shot. Then again, and above all, history and circumstance are governed by forces the action of which is beyond the control of any individual, forces which revel in war despite all the preachings of peace, those forces which, in ancient times, went by the name of Destiny, which are known to the Turks of Kiamet, and which the Calvinists speak of as Predestination.

New York's Tea Party Week.

It is recorded in all American school histories that a short time before the Revolution some patriotic Bostonians who disapproved of the British Tax Act, disguised themselves as Indians, boarded a tea-laden ship just arrived from England, and, breaking the chests, tossed the tea overboard, thus making Boston harbor, as was said at the time, a great teapot. Every New York schoolboy can tell the story of that affair as well as any Boston lad can tell it, but how many New York children know that we had a tea party of our own here, and made a huge teapot of New York harbor?

In truth, there were two tea parties in this city in those stirring anti-Revolutionary times. They came within a few days of each other; but most of our school histories make no mention of them whatever.

One hundred and twenty-three years ago this very week the whole of the brave little English colonial city of New York was absorbed in the question of Tea and Taxes. Thanks to the New York Non-importation Agreement of Oct. 31, 1775, the Stamp Act had been repealed, but Parliament and GEORGE III., merely to show to the rebellious Americans that the right to tax the colonists still remained in Parliament, had imposed a slight tax upon the importation of tea. The colonists protested against the principle of the tax, and not against the tax itself.

LORD NORTH received the protests, but declared that he would force America to a trial of the disputed tax question, and see to it that ships with tea were sent to New York and Boston. The indignant people of both cities prepared their side of the case for trial. Here in New York two societies made ready to receive the tea-ships, and to prevent the landing of their cargoes, and thus to nullify the effect of the Tea Tax act. One of these organizations was called the Sons of Liberty, and the other, known as the Mohawks, was composed of men who wore the garb of Indians. The first ship, the Nancy, was due here about December, 1774, but storms nearly shipwrecked her, and not until April 15 did she come within sight of Sandy Hook. News of her arrival made the city throb to its uttermost northern limits, then the line along which runs our Chambers street, and in every farmhouse in the unsettled part of Manhattan Island above that line, there was much fire-side talk of impending trouble.

The pilots of New York Bay refused to pilot the Nancy from Sandy Hook to her pier near the Battery. Even if they had not done so willingly they would probably have been compelled to refrain from helping the Nancy, for the Sons of Liberty had gone in small boats to Sandy Hook and taken possession of the unfortunate half-wrecked tea ship. Her master, Capt. LOCKEY, was permitted to come to town to arrange for repairs, but he was told to hasten, that he must not try to land a single chest of tea, and that after his ship had been mended, he must sail back to London with her and her tea.

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shown in the enthusiastic reception which was given to the announcement made by porters affixed to many doors and windows.

In the Prince. The news of the city mutiny at the landing of the East India Company's fleet, signed by Capt. LOWELL, by the Commodore, nevertheless, it is to be deplored, has met with the same fate as the mutiny of the crew of the steamer pressed by the Manxmen and by the East India Company to enforce its country. This will be decided by the convention of the people at its departure from this city, which will be on next Saturday morning at 9 o'clock, when no doubt every friend in this country will attend.

We also have the English military expeditions up the Nile, which has not yet been the occasion of much fighting, but which may be the occasion of a pretty hot war before England goes to Khartoum.

We also have the British technical journal representing the Alabama, when hunting up to 30 degrees in a gale, with a heavy sea, so having her main deck flooded almost to the barbette wall; the upper deck edge also under water to the very stem.

"On the other hand, the Prince George at the same angle of heel would not have gone over any portion of her upper deck's edge, as for a considerable length of her side the upper deck battery traverses and forward there is a sheer of feet, rising gradually to the stem, while at the slight sheer given is sufficient to turn aside an approaching wave." She might even lie over several degrees more, with no greater inconvenience than a sprinkling over the upper deck aft. But with the Alabama, weighted by so many tons of water, a serious, and possibly a terrible picture presents itself.

A considerable part of the barbette walls—parts of the whole, indeed, of 25-inch steel, the surviving weight being 470 tons each, the remaining 150 tons being cut away—and the masts, the topmasts, the stays, the yards, the upper deck's edge, the gun ports, the gun barrels, the magazines and ship's stores, may be sufficient to keep the vessel afloat when upon an even keel. It is necessary to look at the centre of gravity, if we estimate that to be about at the level of the armoured deck, which is probably the case; although the weight of the side hull armor, 140 tons each, the magazines and barrels, the magazines and ship's stores, may be sufficient to keep the vessel in the lower hulls, to keep the vessel afloat when upon an even keel. 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